

To: Regional Literature Committees  
Area Literature Committees

From: Mary Jensen, Chairperson  
WSC Literature Committee

Date: September 17, 1992

Re: September Update

The WSC Literature Committee met for the first time this year on August 28-30. Since the literature portion of the *Conference Report*, which is enclosed in this mailing, does not cover the events of that meeting, I wanted to keep you as currently informed as possible. The meeting's main events are discussed below.

**The Steps Portion of *It Works: How and Why***

We reviewed and revised Steps One Through Six during this meeting. The revised drafts have been sent out to the committee for final approval and will be mailed to you the last week of September. We are very pleased with the drafts. As mentioned in the *Conference Report*, more changes were made to Steps One through Three than to other steps due to the nature of fellowship input. Thanks to all of you who participated in the review of the steps. Your work was immensely helpful.

We also worked on the preface to the steps portion of the book and introduction to the book as a whole. These will be further revised during the October steps working group meeting and the quarterly workshop. When the approval form of the book is sent to you in late November or early December, those parts will be included as well.

**Step Writing Guides**

We factored the work done by the panels assigned to this project and eliminated redundant and tangential topics. Although we have not yet come to consensus about the book's format, we agree that introductory narrative is needed at the beginning of each guide. In addition, we have decided to intersperse narrative throughout each step guide to open the door to the questions which follow. Our goal is to invite the reader to participate in the step writing process, and interspersed narrative seems to set the proper tone. At the present time, members are being assigned

to develop preliminary outlines based on the work done by the panels and WSCLC.

### ***History of NA Project***

We had been asked by a member of the group working outside of the service structure on this project to consider the protocol of their asking members within the service structure to participate with them. We considered this an opportunity to communicate with the group, and I have written them a letter asking that we might work together in a spirit of cooperation toward the same goal. The committee also discussed the perceived interest in this project by the fellowship. The fact that prototypes of our history seem to be appearing may well indicate that the fellowship sees this as the next major piece of literature for Narcotics Anonymous. Later in this letter you will note that we are asking for your input about this. With any of the issues that we are submitting for your consideration, please "ask around" to get a larger perspective.

On another note, we have been asked by two regions to clarify the relationship between the WSCLC and the NA history book that is currently being distributed. We responded to those requests, and the literature committee felt it important to let all of you know that the book being sold is not a product of the literature development process, but was created outside of the service structure. In certain parts of the country, there seems to have been some question about this. If there are concerns in your community, please know that the material is not conference-approved.

### **"Newly Revised"**

We received a letter from a member who questioned our continued use of the phrase "Newly Revised" on the cover of the *White Booklet*. We began discussing this at the conference, and completed that discussion during this meeting. Our decision was to ask the Board of Directors to consider deleting the "Newly" and using the phrase "Revised, 1984" on the copyright page. The use of the word "Newly" is not meaningful and is certainly misleading.

### **Regional Assignments**

The literature committee discussed making additional assignments to RLC's who requested them. We have recently received several such requests from regions and areas. We understand that as review is finished on the steps and traditions, it may leave a gap in your work. We recognize the feeling of loss that accompanies the completion of a project. Although we see our responsibility in distributing items in need of further development to local committees requesting assignments, at the present time we have no plans toward regional development of items on our "C" or "D" work lists.

The last time this gap occurred, we assigned works-in-progress needing further development. This material is currently either being used in the

development of the Step Writing Guides or included in the source material for other specific pieces. We also asked that you review IP's currently on the tables. This information was the incentive for selecting certain IP's for revision.

We would like you to consider assisting us at this time in a different way. Your input on the issues included in the survey form following this letter are seen by the committee as vital. We realize that you are being given limited time to respond to the first two items on this survey. Your responses are due at the WSO on October 23rd. If this deadline is impossible for you to meet, please send the survey with your RSR or bring it to the October quarterly. We will need to have you give it to us early Friday. This will allow for the Evaluations Subcommittee to consider your input as we make recommendations for next years's work lists.

I hope to see a lot of you at the October Quarterly. Again, the WSC Literature Committee will be revising the drafts of Steps Seven through Twelve, the Introduction and preface, and the index to *It Works* on Thursday and Friday. We will begin including our general members on Saturday. Working groups will participate in IP and handbook revisions. We need and value your help with these projects. See you soon!

Encl: Survey Form  
April WSCLC Minutes  
Literature portion of September *Conference Report*